



Senate

General Assembly

File No. 10

February Session, 2022

Senate Bill No. 133

Senate, March 15, 2022

The Committee on Public Safety and Security reported through SEN. OSTEN of the 19th Dist., Chairperson of the Committee on the part of the Senate, that the bill ought to pass.

AN ACT ALLOWING POLICE OFFICERS TO WEAR RELIGIOUS HEAD COVERINGS AS PART OF A POLICE UNIFORM.

Be it enacted by the Senate and House of Representatives in General Assembly convened:

1 Section 1. (NEW) (*Effective from passage*) (a) As used in this section,
2 "law enforcement unit" and "police officer" have the same meanings as
3 provided in section 7-294a of the general statutes.

4 (b) Not later than October 1, 2022, each law enforcement unit shall
5 adopt or amend a policy to permit a police officer to wear a religious
6 head covering in accordance with the police officer's religious beliefs
7 while the police officer is on duty and wearing a uniform or other
8 authorized attire, except where the use of tight-fitting protective
9 headgear is required by such law enforcement unit.

This act shall take effect as follows and shall amend the following sections:

Section 1	<i>from passage</i>	New section
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PS

Joint Favorable

The following Fiscal Impact Statement and Bill Analysis are prepared for the benefit of the members of the General Assembly, solely for purposes of information, summarization and explanation and do not represent the intent of the General Assembly or either chamber thereof for any purpose. In general, fiscal impacts are based upon a variety of informational sources, including the analyst's professional knowledge. Whenever applicable, agency data is consulted as part of the analysis, however final products do not necessarily reflect an assessment from any specific department.

OFA Fiscal Note**State Impact:** None**Municipal Impact:** None**Explanation**

The bill allows police officers to wear religious head coverings while on duty and results in no fiscal impact to the state or municipalities.

The Out Years**State Impact:** None**Municipal Impact:** None

OLR Bill Analysis**SB 133*****AN ACT ALLOWING POLICE OFFICERS TO WEAR RELIGIOUS HEAD COVERINGS AS PART OF A POLICE UNIFORM.*****SUMMARY**

This bill requires each law enforcement unit, by October 1, 2022, to adopt or amend a policy to allow its police officers to wear religious head coverings that correspond to their religious beliefs while on duty and wearing a uniform or other authorized attire, except where the unit requires its officers to use tight-fitting protective headgear.

By law and under the bill, a “law enforcement unit” is any state or municipal agency or department (or tribal agency or department created and governed under a memorandum of agreement) whose primary functions include enforcing criminal or traffic laws; preserving public order; protecting life and property; or preventing, detecting, or investigating crime (CGS § 7-294a).

“Police officers” are sworn members of an organized local police department or the State Police; appointed constables who perform criminal law enforcement duties; special police officers appointed under law (e.g., public assistance fraud investigators); or any members of a law enforcement unit who perform police duties (CGS § 7-294a).

EFFECTIVE DATE: Upon passage

COMMITTEE ACTION

Public Safety and Security Committee

Joint Favorable

Yea 24 Nay 0 (03/03/2022)